

A METHOD FOR SEARCHING NODES FOR INFORMATION

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method by which one node can search for and retrieve information
5 from another node. A message identifying the sought-for information item and
an address is created at a first node. The address identifies a repository for
the sought-for information. A second node receives the contents of this
message and responds with the information item if the item is available.
Otherwise, the second node propagates the message to other nodes. The
10 message is propagated from node to node until it reaches a node having the
sought-for information item. If this node can connect to the specified address,
it sends the information item to the repository. Otherwise, the node adds the
information item to the message, which is propagated to other nodes until the
message reaches a node that can connect with the address. The information
15 item can then be retrieved from the repository.